

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 EB-07 IO-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 /092 W

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R 181210Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2214

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TRIPOLI 0566

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LY, UR, XF

SUBJECT: KOSYGIN VISIT TO LIBYA

1. SUMMARY: KOSYGIN VISIT TO LIBYA TOOK PLACE IN STUDIOUSLY MAINTAINED ATMOSPHERE OF NORMAL PROTOCOL FOR OFFICIAL VISITS. SCRUPULOUS AND UN-LIBYAN OBSERVANCE OF PROTOCOL SEEMED DESIGNED TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT LIBYANS AND SOVIETS ARE EQUALS WHO RESPECT EACH OTHER, IN DEFERENCE TO LIBYAN SENSITIVITIES. A SCHEDULED TOUR OF BENGHAZI UNIVERSITY HAD TO BE CANCELLED BECAUSE OF THREATENED DEMONSTRATIONS AND UNFRIENDLY SLOGANS ON THE WALLS. PRIMIN JALLUD ACTED AS HOST AND QADHAFI STAYED IN BACKGROUND. KOSYGIN'S REFERENCES TO GENEVA CONFERENCE AND "INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE OF ALL STATES IN THE AREA" IN REMARKS AT A BANQUET WERE NOT REPORTED BY THE LIBYAN PRESS, AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE DOES NOT CONTAIN THEM, NOR DOES IT REFER TO OIL AND MILITARY MATTERS. WE DO NOT READ JOINT COMMUNIQUE AS REPRESENTING ANY CHANGE IN THE HARDLINE LIBYAN POSITION ON THE MIDEAST. END SUMMARY.

2. SOVIET PREMIER KOSYGIN VISITED LIBYA MAY 12-15. HIS

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PUBLIC ACTIVITIES FOLLOWED STRICTLY USUAL PROTOCOL FOR SUCH

OFFICIAL VISITS: A BANQUET, WITH TOASTS EXCHANGED (IN MINERAL WATER), WREATH-LAYING, TOUR OF SCHOOLS AND AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS IN CYRENAICA, AND A JOINT COMMUNIQUE AT THE END. PRIMIN JALLUD ACTED AS HOST. THIS UN-LIBYAN ATTENTION TO PROTOCOL NICETIES SEEMS DESIGNED TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT VISIT WAS BETWEEN EQUALS WHO RESPECT EACH OTHER. REGIME IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO ANY SUGGESTION IT IS SUBJECT TO FOREIGN INFLUENCE OR PRESSURE.

3. ALTHOUGH HE WAS HERE FOR THREE AND ONE-HALF DAYS, KOSYGIN SAW THE RULER OF LIBYA, COLONEL QADHAFI, ONLY TWICE, AND ONLY ONCE FOR WHAT WERE DESCRIBED AS TALKS, ON MAY 13 MORE THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER HIS ARRIVAL. ON THIS OCCASION PRIMIN OF BYELORUSSIA AND SECRETARY GENERAL TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ALSO ATTENDED ON SOVIET SIDE, WHILE ON LIBYAN SIDE WITH QADHAFI WERE PRIMIN JALLUD, ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF ABU BAKR YUNIS, AND A MINOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL. KOSYGIN PRESENTED QADHAFI WITH A KORAN FROM EARLY DAYS OF ISLAM IN CENTRAL ASIA, WHICH WAS A GIFT WELL CALCULATED TO PLEASE HIM. ON MAY 15 KOSYGIN AND QADHAFI MET SECOND TIME AT HEADQUARTERS OF LIBYAN ARAB SOCIALIST UNION, BUT MEETING WAS APPARENTLY BRIEF ONE, AND IN WAY OF A FAREWELL CALL.

4. WITH QADHAFI STAYING IN BACKGROUND, JALLUD WAS PRINCIPAL LIBYAN HOST AND NEGOTIATOR, BUT EVEN HE DID NOT ACCOMPANY KOSYGIN TO BENGHAZI, LEAVING THE JOB TO CIVILIAN MINISTERS. THIS WAS PROBABLY MISTAKE BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO FRENCH CONSUL'S REPORT FROM BENGHAZI TO HIS AMBASSADOR, SOVIETS WERE UPSET BY POORLY ORGANIZED PROGRAM WHICH WAS PUT TOGETHER BY WELL-MEANING BUT LOW LEVEL HOSTS. VISIT TO BENGHAZI UNIVERSITY WAS HASTILY CANCELLED WHEN LIBYAN AUTHORITIES DISCOVERED ANTI-QADHAFI AND ANTI-SOVIET SLOGANS BEING PAINTED ON WALLS BY STUDENTS. UPSHOT WAS THAT KOSYGIN RETURNED TO TRIPOLI EARLY, PASSING UP SCHEDULED BANQUET THAT EVENING.

5. JALLUD AND KOSYGIN EXCHANGED REMARKS AT BANQUET GIVEN BY LIBYANS MAY 12 IN A TRIPOLI HOTEL. AS WITH MOST OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE DURING VISIT, FBIS HAS REPORTED THESE
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REMARKS. JALLUD'S SPEECH WAS IMPROMPTU, AND NOT WORTH MUCH ATTENTION, ALTHOUGH WE NOTE HIS REFERENCE TO "VAST POSSIBILITIES" FOR INCREASING SOVIET-ARAB COOPERATION. KOSYGIN'S REMARKS IN REPLY INCLUDED REFERENCE TO "SAFEGUARDING OF THE INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE OF ALL STATES IN THE (MIDDLE EAST)", AND CALL FOR THE RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE AFTER "PRECISE PREPARATION". HE ALSO GAVE LIBYANS CAREFULLY PHRASED LECTURE ON IMPORTANCE OF OVERCOMING

"DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ARAB COUNTRIES" OVER A MIDEAST SETTLEMENT. (WE READ THIS AS REFERENCE TO EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN DISPUTE.) UNSURPRISINGLY LIBYAN PRESS DID NOT REPORT THESE STATEMENTS.

6. SOVIETS WERE PROBABLY DISCONCERTED BY SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF ARAFAT WHO FLEW IN FROM CAIRO MAY 15 AND ATTENDED FINAL LUNCHEON AT OFFICERS CLUB OF EX-WHEELUS BASE. ALTHOUGH HE WAS SEATED ON KOSYGIN'S RIGHT, SOVIET PRIMIN SEEMED TO AVOID CONVERSATION WITH HIM.

7. AT VISIT'S CONCLUSION, A LONG AND NOT VERY ENLIGHTENING JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS RELEASED. IT DOES NOT REFER TO OIL OR MILITARY MATTERS, WHIC WWERE PRESUMABLY THE TWO IMPORTANT BILATERAL AREAS OF NEGOTIATION. WE NOTE IN PARTICULAR THAT COMMUNIQUE INCLUDED:

A) NO REFERENCE TO GENEVA CONFERENCE,

B) NO REFERENCE TO "THE INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE OF ALL STATES" IN THE REGION,

C) STATEMENT THAT THERE WILL BE REGULAR CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES AT ALL LEVELS, AND

D) REFERENCES TO DESIRABILITY OF "CONSOLIDATION" AND "EXPANSION" OF SOVIET-LIBYAN TIES.

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